



# KENTUCKY HUNTING GUIDE for SPRING TURKEY & SQUIRREL

MARCH – JUNE 2009



**TELECHECK:**  
**1-800-245-4263**

**Fish & Wildlife:**

1-800-858-1549 • [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)  
Dr. Jonathan Gassett, Commissioner

**Report Game Violations:**  
**1-800-25-ALERT**

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March - June 2009

John J. Mosesso/NBII photo



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1-800-858-1549 • fw.ky.gov  
Dr. Jonathan Gassett, Commissioner  
#1 Sportsman's Lane  
Frankfort, KY 40601

## Telecheck:

1-800-CHK-GAME

## Report game violations:

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### ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a **SUMMARY** of the laws regarding spring hunting. This guide is intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced statute or regulation in its entirety and should not be used as such. Questions about the information contained in this guide should be directed to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources **BEFORE** engaging in the activities referenced. Actual wording of any Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) can be viewed at [www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/frntpage.htm](http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/frntpage.htm).

### OTHER GUIDES AVAILABLE

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife produces separate hunting regulation guides for fall hunting and trapping, waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting. Fall hunting and trapping regulations are available in early July. Dove and early waterfowl hunting regulations are available in mid-August. Regular waterfowl season regulations are available in early November. Call 1-800-858-1549 weekdays, look for a copy of these regulation guides where hunting licenses are sold, or log on to [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).





## Commonwealth of Kentucky

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

### FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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2nd District: Dale Franklin, Morgantown

3rd District: James "Tony" Brown Sr.,  
Brandenburg

4th District: Dr. James R. Angel, Campbellsville

5th District: Dr. James R. Rich, Taylor Mill

6th District: Stephen Glenn, Frankfort

7th District: Doug Hensley, Hazard

8th District: Rick D. Storm, Carlisle

9th District: Taylor Orr, London

### Department of

### FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Commissioner: Dr. Jonathan Gassett

Deputy Commissioner: Benjy Kinman

Deputy Commissioner: Hank Patton

Wildlife Director: Dr. Karen Alexy

Fisheries Director: vacant

Law Enforcement Director: Col. Robert Milligan

Information & Education Director: Tim Slone

Administrative Services Director: Darin Moore

Public Affairs & Policy Director: Lynn Garrison

Engineering Director: Charles Bush

### SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

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### Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is funded

through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and boat registration fees. It receives no general fund state tax dollars. The Department manages, regulates, enforces and promotes responsible use of all fish and wildlife species, their habitats, public wildlife areas and waterways for the benefit of those resources and for public enjoyment. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, an agency of the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet, supports an annual economic impact to Kentucky of \$4.5 billion.

## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

A good year for turkeys means a good year for hunters. Spring 2008 brought warm weather, little rainfall and a large cicada emergence. This meant plenty of food for poults, and a very successful reproductive year for turkeys. For hunters, it means a larger flock for the 2009 spring turkey season, and a banner year in 2010 when those birds are full-grown.

With more birds on the ground, this year is a great opportunity to take a kid hunting during the April 4-5 youth season. Even if you don't call in a gobbler, teaching a new hunter how to use a slate call or set up on a wary bird makes for an interactive hunt that keeps kids interested.

A healthy turkey flock is no good to a hunter without a place to hunt. The department understands that lack of



Dave Baker photo

hunting access is perhaps the biggest challenge to the future of hunting. We continue to work hard to secure new public hunting areas throughout the state. Our most recent success is the new 5,000-acre CONSOL of Kentucky Wildlife Management Area in Knott and Floyd counties. I encourage turkey hunters to take advantage of this new area, as well as more than 70 other

WMAs open for the 2009 spring season.

When you have plenty of birds and a good place to pursue them, turkey hunting is one of the most exciting hunting opportunities out there. I wish all Kentucky hunters a successful and safe year.

— Dr. Jonathan Gassett

## BASIC RULES FOR HUNTING

1. You can NOT hunt or retrieve game on someone else's land without permission.
2. Unless you are license exempt, you must buy and carry afield the right hunting license and permits for the kind of hunting you do.
3. You can only hunt when the season is open for that species. Your hunting equipment must be legal. You can take no more game than the daily or season bag limits allow.
4. Before you move a harvested turkey, you must record it on a hunter harvest log. You must also telecheck the turkey by midnight. See pages 8-10 for details.
5. All hunters born on or after January 1, 1975 must pass a hunter education course before hunting on any land besides land they own, unless they have a valid temporary hunter education exemption permit. Kids do not have to take the class until they are 12 years old. See pages 11-12 for other youth requirements.

**All hunters should read the General Information/Telecheck section of this guide, in addition to the section for the game they are hunting, before going afield. Public land hunters should also read the Public Land Hunting section.**

**HUNTING ON PRIVATE LAND IS A PRIVILEGE.  
ALWAYS GET PERMISSION AND THANK THE LANDOWNER.**



✧ KENTUCKY DEPT. OF



FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES ✧

## WHO WE ARE

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is an agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet. Our nine-member commission is nominated by Kentucky sportsmen and sportswomen and appointed by the governor. This commission appoints the department's commissioner.

We employ about 500 people full-time, including Conservation Officers, wildlife and fisheries biologists, conservation educators, and information technology, public relations, customer service and administrative professionals.

Our Headquarters is located in Frankfort, but we work with landowners, hunters, anglers, boaters and wildlife enthusiasts statewide.

## WHAT WE DO

We conserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other wildlife-related activities.

Every year, we:

- Enforce hunting, fishing and boating laws across Kentucky for resource protection and public safety.
- Manage about 1 million acres of public land and water for the benefit of all fish and wildlife species.
- Stock more than 4 million fish in public waters.
- Build and maintain public boat ramps, shooting ranges and bank fishing access areas, acquire new public land and maintain facilities (capital construction).
- Assist about 2,000 private landowners with fish and wildlife habitat improvement.
- Inform and educate more than 400,000 kids and adults through education and outreach programs.

## HOW YOU HELP

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife receives no money from the state's General Fund.

You provide our agency's funding every time you:

- Buy a hunting or fishing license
- Buy a firearm, ammunition, or fishing or archery equipment
- Pay your boat registration fee
- Buy fuel for your boat

